REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-53 were in the application. In the last office action, claims 1 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-53 were also rejected on art.

Claims 1 has been amended in order to overcome the Section 112 rejection by deleted "if any". Claim 50 has been cancelled.

Turning now to the art, claims 1-3, 5-9, 12-24, 31-36 and 50-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Nicholson in view of Hoarty. Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Nicholson and Hoarty in view of Macdonald. Claims 10, 11 and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Nicholson and Hoarty in view of Dufresne. Claims 25-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Nicholson and Hoarty in view of Hamlin. Claims 37-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Nicholson and Hoarty in view of Saward and Diehl.

The claims have been amended to distinguish from the cited art.

Nicholson, discloses a system particularly adapted for offices wherein “complete privacy” is an essential requirement (see col. 1, lines 19-24). Accordingly, Nicholson teaches that each user must have his own 12 Mhz personal channel through which all signals can be received via a corresponding band-pass filter (23).

Under Nicholson's teachings, no signals are to be received by more than one user on the same frequency band. If two users want to see the same TV channel, e.g., the FOX Channel, they must each interrogate an RSPC. In response, the RSPC will convert the FOX Channel to two different frequencies corresponding to the respective personal channels of the two users. The FOX Channel will then be present in two different frequency bands (corresponding to the two personal channels).

Each time a user wants to change channel, he must interrogate the RSPC in order to change the content of the information present in his or her personal channel. This is very disadvantageous both from the point of view of band occupancy and equipment utilization. Each time the user makes a program selection he must send control signals to the RSPC utilizing valuable bandwidth. This necessity also results in numerous interrogations of the RSPC which can accelerate deterioration of the equipment.

Nicholson's teachings are contrary to the claimed invention in that, under Nicholson, there are no signals distributed in a frequency band which can be received by all the users. Not even unreserved signals can be accessed from a single frequency band by multiple users. Nicholson promotes privacy at the expense of efficiency.

Nicholson does not disclose any distinction between methods and apparatus for distributing reserved vs. nonreserved signals.

Nicholson does not disclose distributing nonreserved signals in common frequency bands while frequency converting only reserved signals into personal channels of a reserved frequency band.

Nicholson does not disclose the use of opposing filtering means (band-stop filters and band-pass filters) for managing the reception of different signals at the sockets.

Hoarthy discloses a CATV system wherein broadcast signals are transmitted together with interactive services e.g., video on demand signals.

The interactive services are transmitted in virtual channels (i.e. particular frequency bands) which are assigned to different users on a demand basis (col. 7 lines 1-50). Each user's set top box requests an interactive service and the network manager 66a assigns to the user a dedicated MMC.

> "modulators are preferably capable of modulating a carrier that is tunable by the network manager 66a, so that any given modulator may be configured to best handle demands placed on the system". (col. 7 lines 19-22)

According to Hoarty, thus, there is no direct correspondence between personal channels and sockets as claimed by applicant.

Claim 1, as now amended, recites

> "each of said channels being a personal channel only receivable at one of said predetermined sockets"

New method claim 55 recites

> "frequency converting the reserved signals into personal channels of a reserved frequency

> band in response to control signals received from said sockets, and
>
> receiving the nonreserved signals allocated in said predetermined frequency band and the reserved signals allocated in a personal channel at a predetermined socket."

Each time a user wants to receive an interactive TV service, Hoarty's system manages the virtual channels in a different way.

Combining the teachings of Nicholson and Hoarty does not lead to Applicant's invention as now claimed, notwithstanding Hoarty's teachings that reserved and non reserved signals can be distributed on the same cable.

A CATV system according to Hoarty would provide broadcast and interactive services on the same cable. A system according to Nicholson would receive the CATV service and distribute it to the user by converting all of the received signals into the users' respective personal channels. That is, in order not to compromise privacy, no signal would be distributed to one user in a band which is accessible by another user.

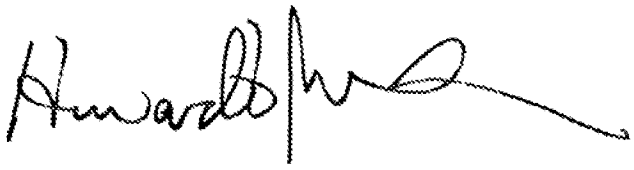
According to Nicholson's system, each user is provided with only a 12 MHz band-pass filter (for passing a 6 MHz downstream channel and a 6 MHz upstream channel), which means that he can receive one TV channel at a time under the 6 MHz NSTC standard.

Nicholson's system, even when modified in accordance with Hoarty, would not allow a user to receive a virtual channel and a broadcast channel at the same time. Applicant's invention allows for simultaneous receipt of multiple programs through the use of

different filtering means (band-stop filters and band-pass filters) for managing the reception of different signals at the sockets, and a direct correspondence between reserved bands (personal channels) and users' sockets.

In view of the foregoing the amended claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the newly cited art. Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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